

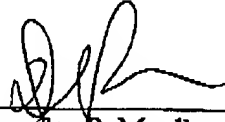
Conclusion

With the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that the claims now pending in this patent application are in a condition for immediate allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If any further questions arise, the Examiner is welcome to contact Applicants' representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300

Date: September 17, 2003

  
Douglas P. Mueller  
Reg. No. 30,300  
DPM:JAL:PSTkaw

**OFFICIAL**

**RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER**

**SEP 22 2003**

